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Committee on Conferences
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Draft report

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III. Meetings management

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

1. Meeting statistics of United Nations organs and consultations with bodies concerning the utilization of conference-servicing resources

1. At its 531st meeting, on 2 September 2014, the Committee on Conferences considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences containing statistical data and analysis of the utilization of conference resources allocated to a core sample of bodies that met in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi (see A/69/120, paras. 10-22, and supplementary information,[1] sect. II). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/251, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had worked closely with the secretariats and bureaux of the eight intergovernmental bodies whose utilization factor over the previous 10 years had fallen below the benchmark of 80 per cent, offering a number of specific suggestions to improve their use of conference services.

2. The Committee also heard a report by the Chair on his mandate to hold consultations with the intergovernmental bodies whose utilization factor had fallen below the 80 per cent benchmark over the past three years: the Committee on Contributions, the Committee on Information, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group, and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund. As a result of those efforts, the Committee on Contributions, the Committee on Information and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group had agreed to make greater efforts to start their meetings on time, reduce the length of their meetings, reduce the number of meetings scheduled, in accordance with their needs, cancel interpretation services at points in the session where informal consultations were expected, or provide

[1] See http://coc.dgacm.org/2014/Documents/2014_Supplementary_Information.pdf.

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advance notice of meeting cancellations. The secretariat of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund had agreed to encourage the Bureau to improve the Board's utilization rate.

2. Provision of interpretation services to meetings of bodies entitled to meet "as required"

3. At the same meeting, the Committee considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences concerning the provision of interpretation services to meetings of bodies entitled to meet "as required" (see A/69/120, para. 23, and supplementary information,[1] sect. III).

3. Provision of conference services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

4. Also at the same meeting, the Committee considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences concerning the provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groups of Member States (see A/69/120, para. 24, and supplementary information,[1] sect. IV).

4. Utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

5. Also at its 531st meeting, the Committee considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences concerning the utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (see A/69/120, para. 25).

5. Utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa

6. At the same meeting, the Committee considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences concerning the utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa (see A/69/120, paras. 26-29).

7. In response to questions from delegations, a representative of the Committee said that further information regarding the completion of the renovation of the conference centre and the implementation of the comprehensive marketing and pricing strategy would be provided in writing.

B. Impact of the implementation of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences concerning the impact of the implementation of the capital master plan on meetings held at Headquarters (see A/69/120, para. 30, and supplementary information,[1] sect. V).

9. A representative of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management said that the lessons learned from the early phases of the capital master plan were being implemented in the renovation of the General Assembly Building.